

## BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 16, 1946

ELUL 20, 5706

**CHAIRMAN BOTEIN ASKS ANNUAL FUNDS BY MAIL**

The letter by Bernard Botein, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, to all members of the Park Avenue Synagogue and others who attend during the year and at the High Holy Day season is a radical departure in the Synagogue fund raising procedure. Yet it is one which many have regarded long overdue, and to which most have looked forward for years.

In his letter Judge Botein commented in part that "we hope this year to be able to raise the required sum without an appeal from the pulpit, or the taking of pledges, or any other of the distasteful interruptions with which in the past we have perforce disturbed our worship." This change in practice, which will be made possible if the response to Board Chairman's letter approaches last year's appeal from the pulpit, is a highly desirable one, and one which the Congregation will grow to appreciate even more when the solemnity and dignity of the service no longer need be upset and broken. It will add immeasurably to the beauty of the worship for all of us, and will bring a deeper sense of peace and enrichment to the prayer of each individual

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**RABBI KERTZER'S INSTALLATION AS ASSOCIATE RABBI, SEPT. 20th**

The installation of Rabbi Morris N. Kertzer as Associate Rabbi of the Congregation will take place on Friday evening, September 20th, at 8:30 p.m., in the Synagogue. Dr. Louis Finkelstein, President of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, has accepted an invitation to attend the ceremonies, and will deliver one of the principal addresses. This formal ceremony and the reception to Rabbi and Mrs. Kertzer which will follow will indicate but in

small measure the unreserved enthusiasm of the entire Congregation upon having Rabbi Kertzer accept the invitation to the rabbinate of the Synagogue.

Hon. Bernard Botein, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, will preside at the ceremonies. Dr. Finkelstein will address the Congregation and install Rabbi Kertzer. Rabbi Steinberg will present the official welcome of the Synagogue, and Rabbi Kertzer has announced that his response to the greeting will be entitled "A Credo for Our Times."

Rabbi Kertzer comes to the Park Avenue Synagogue with an outstanding reputation in the rabbinate and for his very special talents in the field of community work with Jewish youth and young adults. Most recently Rabbi Kertzer served in the Army as a Chaplain, with nineteen months duty overseas. He spent nine months in Italy and ten months in France and Germany. Rabbi Kertzer was assigned to the famed Third Division, just recently returned to this country from occupation duty; to the Forty-Fifth Division which made history by its dogged stand at the Anzio beachhead, where he was the only Jewish chaplain in attendance; and to the First Armored Division, which was the spearhead of much of the Allied campaign in central Italy.

Shortly after his graduation from the Jewish Theological Seminary with the prize in Bible, Rabbi Kertzer became the first assistant director of the Bnai Brith Hillel Foundation at the University of Illinois under Dr. A. L. Sachar. He remained in this post from 1934 until 1936, at which time he became the Hillel Foundation director at the University of Alabama. In 1939 Rabbi Kertzer



RABBI MORRIS N. KERTZER

**SCHEDULE OF HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICES**

ROSH HASHANAH EVE.....Wednesday, Sept. 25th, 6:00 p.m.

FIRST MORNING ROSH HASHANAH.....Thursday, Sept. 26th 8:30 a.m.

Rabbi Steinberg will preach at 10:30 a.m. on

"Counsel For a Time of Disillusionment."

The Junior Congregation will hold services in the vestry from 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. The Service will be under the direction of Mr. Sanford Hahn, and other members of the Junior Congregation will participate. All children of members and seatholders are cordially invited to attend these services.

SECOND EVENING.....Thursday, Sept. 26th, 6:00 p.m.

SECOND MORNING.....Friday, Sept. 27th, 8:30 a.m.

Rabbi Kertzer will preach at 10:30 a.m. on "The Art of Maturity."

Junior Congregation Services, 10:30-11:15 a.m.

SHABBAT SHUVAH EVE.....Friday, Sept. 27th, 6:00 p.m.

(Sabbath of Penitence)

SHABBAT SHUVAH.....Saturday, Sept. 28, 8:30 a.m.

Rabbi Kertzer will preach at 10:30 a.m. on "The Sabbath of Return."

KOL NIDREI.....Friday, Oct. 4th, 6:00 p.m.

Rabbi Steinberg will preach on "Some Plain Speaking About Jews."

YOM KIPPUR.....Saturday, Oct. 5th, 8:30 a.m.

Rabbi Kertzer will preach at 11 a.m. on "Who Sow in Tears."

Junior Cong. Services, 10:30-11:15 a.m. Memorial Service at 3 p.m.

*All who were unable to procure tickets entitling them to seats in the Synagogue auditorium are cordially invited to pray in the Vestry, where all Services will be transmitted through amplifiers.*

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BULLETIN

is published bi-weekly from  
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by

THE PARK AVENUE SYNAGOGUE  
50 East 87th Street, New York 28, N. Y.  
Tel. SAcramento 2-8765

JACOB FRIEDMAN, JR.  
*President*

BERNARD BOTEIN  
*Chairman of the Board*

D. LEONARD COHEN  
*Chairman, Publications and  
Publicity Committee*

HOWARD KIEVAL  
*Editor*

Vol. I

No. 1

## WE INTRODUCE OURSELF

After the lapse of some years the Congregation is resuming the publication of a regular news bulletin. The practice of frequent and unrelated mailings was felt to be inadequate for the needs of such a large and vital organization. It is hoped that this newspaper will quickly be taken over by the interested members of the Congregation and made to carry out the purposes which are proper to it.

In the first place, it must be a newsy and up to date journal which keeps the membership informed of all important happenings within the Congregation. At the same time we want to make all of you feel this is your own paper, and that it can and will bring us all closer together in terms of our group activities connected with the Synagogue. Every effort will be made to keep our columns personalized without being gossipy, in keeping with the dignity of a publication of this nature.

Items of a more general Jewish interest will find their way into our columns quite naturally. We shall not presume to compete with journals of Jewish opinion in the wider community, but insofar as events affect our congregational lives, we hope this paper will serve for wise and measured comment both on the part of the Board and officers of the Congregation, and by the membership at large. It is only through such broad and democratic participation in the making of group decisions that we can continue to play so significant a role in the Jewish community in this

city as we have played for so many years.

All Congregational notices and announcements will be carried in these columns. Committees and organizations within our walls are asked to forward promptly all pertinent information and announcements about their activities to the Synagogue office. All members of the Congregation who desire to assist in the preparation of this paper are cordially invited.

It is expected that issues will be published biweekly beginning with the present one, and continuing until approximately next *Shabuoth*.

Your comments and criticisms of the editors' efforts will be appreciated, and we shall at all times seek to make this paper yours.

## TO OUR CONGREGANTS

We are most eager that you experience the maximum of spiritual stimulation, solace, and beauty in our worship. In order to attain these ends, we respectfully request your cooperation in the following:

Every seat is reserved. Only those holding tickets should seek admission to the Synagogue.

We urge promptitude in attendance at all services. Tardiness disturbs the decorum and solemnity of our worship.

It is particularly incumbent upon you to be in your seat before 10 A.M., on both mornings of Rosh Hashanah, to participate in the service of the Sounding of the Shofar.

Male worshippers should wear the Talit.

Please participate in prayer, readings, and congregational singing.

Please do not leave or enter the Synagogue during the sermon or during a musical rendition.

*Asur Ledaber Bishat Hatefillah*

"It is forbidden to converse during prayer."

Do not remove your Talit nor put your wraps on until *after* the benediction. Services are never unduly prolonged. Please remain until the very end.

All who wish to attend our worship but do not hold tickets of admittance are welcome in the Vestry, where all services will be relayed through the medium of amplifiers.

PARK AVENUE SYNAGOGUE.

## SEMINARY HONORS RABBI STEINBERG

The Jewish Theological Seminary conferred the degree of Doctor of Hebrew Letters, *honoris causa*, upon Rabbi Milton Steinberg at its Commencement ceremonies on Sunday, September 15th.

The degree was conferred by Dr. Louis Finkelstein, President of the Seminary, in the presence of the Faculty, the Board of Trustees, and the graduating class of the Rabbinical School and their guests. In a moving ceremony Dr. Finkelstein read the following citation:

"Milton Steinberg, graduate of this Seminary and ordained as Rabbi in the class of 1928; Rabbi of the Park Avenue Synagogue in this city; formerly Rabbi, Temple Beth El Zedeck, Indianapolis, Indiana; formerly instructor at the Teachers Institute of this Seminary; instructor classical Languages, College of the City of New York, 1924-1925; special lecturer in Systematic Theology at this Seminary in the years 1942-1944; wise counsellor, eminent thinker, noted author, eloquent preacher, teacher, scholar, pastor and above all *איש אשר רוח בו* "a man in whom is spirit."

"By your numerous writings you have brought many of our people and other Americans to a better understanding and appreciation of the nobility of the Jewish tradition, of the great and enduring contributions made by our Sages to the culture of the world; of the place of the Jewish ethic and religion in uncovering new truths about life and new insights into the meaning of of human existence.

"Through your personal influence over all who have come in contact with you, your former teachers on the Faculty of this Seminary, your colleagues in the Rabbinate, the present student body of the Seminary, the membership of your congregation, and the vastly larger group throughout the country which looks to you as its Rabbi *par excellence*, you have greatly strengthened Jewish life in our time, bringing to it new forces for leadership, new energies for creativeness.

"Through your rare gifts of style and expression, you have been able to stir thousands of hearers and readers to new standards of generosity, of nobility and of spirituality;

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**RABBI KERTZER***(Continued from page 1)*

moved once again, this time to take over the Hillel Foundation program at the University of Iowa, where he also became a member of the faculty with the rank of associate professor.

Rabbi Kertzer has just completed a book on his experiences in the armed forces, which will be published in December by Behrman's Book House under the title "With An 'H' On My Dog Tags." It will deal with all his military experiences, including his participation in the rededication of the Grand Synagogue in Rome on the day our entry into that city, as well as his conduct of tours of Jewish servicemen to Palestine after V-E day.

The new Associate Rabbi is intensely warm and friendly and he is more than anxious to share and speak about his non-rabbinical interests as well as those of a rabbinic nature. His ability with movie photography, his prowess as a table tennis player (he was collegiate champion at the University of Toronto in his student days), as well as his continued interest in sports will endear him the more quickly and firmly to many in the congregation who share those same interests.

Rabbi Kertzer is residing with his wife Julia, and their eight-year-old daughter Ruth, at 255 West 108th Street.

## NOTES ON HIGH HOLY DAY MUSIC

*by*

CANTOR DAVID J. PUTTERMAN

The music of the High Holy Day services is rich and varied. The works of some thirty composers are represented as well as those musical offerings whose authorship has been lost in the passing of the centuries. It all represents the evolution of our Synagogue liturgy, and the influence of all musical development can be seen, as it affected the Hebrew mode of prayer and glorification of our God.

The attitudes of humble prayer, of supplication, and of the profound grandeur of the great holy day are all blended into the music surrounding the *Rosh Hashanah* service. To these are added the *Yom Kippur* notes of confession, of forgiveness and contrition. The majesty and splendor of the *Yom Kippur* and *Rosh Hashanah* prayers are all caught in the web of the music and highlighted so as to afford each person praying the deepest emotional response and awareness of the beauty of the religious way of life.

The ancient melodies are thought to go back as far as the days at Mt. Sinai, and they have been the sacred trust of the *Hazanin* through the years. Despite their antiquity, their timelessness stirs a responsive chord in us whenever they are heard. They

**MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE:**

The School Board will hold its first meeting of the new academic year at the Synagogue on Wednesday evening, September 18th, at 8:30 P.M. All members are urged to be present.

The Board of Trustees of the Congregation will hold an important meeting in the Trustees Room on Thursday evening, September 19th, at 8:30 P.M.

**FUND APPEAL***(Continued from page 1)*

within our synagogue auditorium when such concerns need no longer be discussed from the pulpit during a service, but will be handled through the new channel so recently set up.

In this connection, it is doubly important that all members and friends of the Congregation respond to Judge Botein's letter both promptly and generously. In order to be able to make plans properly for the Congregational year ahead, the Board of Trustees must know sufficiently in advance of Kol Nidrei Eve whether they have the wholehearted support of us all in this praiseworthy step on their part. All recipients of Mr. Botein's letter are urged to reply to the Synagogue office no later than September 16th.

have been the inspiration upon which countless generations have added to the Hebrew religious musical literature, and have encouraged even those not of our faith to make important contributions.

**The Ministers and Officers of  
The Park Avenue Synagogue**

**Extend to the Congregation  
and to All Israel**

**The Greetings of the New Year**

**and Express the Hope That the Tragedy of Israel  
Will Be Lessened in the Year to Come and That  
the World Will Seek to Approach the Kingdom  
of God, and Acknowledge All Men As Brothers.**

## VITAL STATISTICS

The Congregation announces the death of the following members since *Yom Kippur* of last year. It is with deep regret that these departures are noted, and to the families of all, we send our collective sympathies:

MILTON COLLIER  
JOSEPH BAER  
DR. THEODORE I. JACOBUS  
MISS MINNIE ORNSTEIN  
DR. GIRSCH ASTRAKAN  
MISS JOYCE L. LIEBERMAN  
S. WILLIAM BORGENICHT  
EMANUEL PENN  
MRS. FRANCES MELCHNER  
MRS. LENA GREENFIELD  
LEO GUGGENHEIMER

*The editors cordially request that all members of the Congregation keep the Synagogue Office closely informed of all births, deaths, marriages, and bar mitzvos occurring within their families, in order that these may receive proper public note, in these columns and elsewhere through the Congregation.*

## A NEW BOOK BY RABBI STEINBERG

Rabbi Steinberg's literary effort has continued unabated all through the Spring and Summer months. His latest book, which he has entitled "Basic Judaism," will be published by Harcourt, Brace during the early Fall. It is in a sense a completion of his earlier "Partisan Guide To The Jewish Problem," in that it sets down a basic pattern of positive Jewish living, as Rabbi Steinberg sees it.

"As A Driven Leaf," his novel on the conflict between the Hebrew and the Hellenistic ways of life in the early centuries of the common era, has recently been reprinted by Behrman House in a very attractive gift edition.

## SCHOOL REGISTRATION SEPT. 30th, Oct. 1st, 2nd

The School Board has announced that registration for the weekday Hebrew School and for the sessions of the Sunday Religious School will take place on Monday, September 30th, Tuesday, October 1st, and Wednesday, October 2nd, from 3 to 5 P.M. in the School office. Parents are urged to register their children early in order that the school officials may know for certain just how many pupils to expect. The opening day of all sessions will be announced in these columns at a later date.

## JUNIOR LEAGUE RECEPTION AND OPEN HOUSE DANCE

The Junior League will sponsor an Open House Reception and Dance on Sunday afternoon, September 22nd, from 3 to 7 P.M. in the Vestry, it was announced by Dudley Greenstein, the organization's president. The purpose of the gathering is to permit all the old members who have been away from the city for a longer or shorter time to rejoin their many friends, and to invite all young adult members to join in their activities.

All young men and young women between the ages of twenty-one and thirty are cordially invited to be present and to join the Junior League. The appropriate committees have spent the summer months in organizing a full social and educational program for the group, and all plans will be fully worked out at early meetings.

Mr. Greenstein indicated that new members are being sought for all areas of the Junior League's activity, and that all who are interested will be asked to indicate their willingness at the time of the reception on September 22.

## EDUCATIONAL FUND TAX EXEMPT

Word has recently been received from the United States Treasury Department that contributions to the Milton Steinberg Educational Fund are considered tax exempt.

The Fund was established in the Fall of 1943 under the chairmanship of Mr. A. N. Geller for the purpose of raising sufficient money for the establishment of a school and synagogue activities building close to the present structure. Under present conditions the likelihood of an adjacent structure is slim, but it is the hope of the Fund Committee that a suitable building may be built within a few years' time conveniently close to the Synagogue.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTES

Extensive repairs to the stonework on the front of the Synagogue were completed during the summer months. This complete waterproofing will eliminate all dangers of leaks and damage to the building's interior.

\* \* \*

The Secretary of the Congregation requests that all members and others on our mailing lists notify the office of any change of address promptly, so that our communications to you may continue to reach you without delay or interruption. Kindly check with the office if there is any question about your mail from the Synagogue.

\* \* \*

All who desire that the names of their departed loved ones be inscribed in the Book of Remembrance are asked to submit those names to the Synagogue office no later than September 20th at 5 P.M.

The Book of Remembrance will be used during the Yizkor Service on Yom Kippur day.

## SEMINARY HONORS

(Continued from page 2)

"Through your personal self-dedication, you have set an example of devotion, which has a wide influence on the character of many of our people in this land, and have sanctified the name of God in the hearts of the whole community;

"Through your unwearying service on behalf of the land of Israel, you are helping to bring about the fulfillment of the hope of our people.

"Moved by their affection and respect for you, the members of the Faculty of this Seminary have unanimously recommended, and the members of the Board of Directors have unanimously approved, that you be admitted to an honorary degree in this Seminary, and have authorized me to confer on you the degree of Doctor of Hebrew Letters, *honoris causa*.

"By virtue of the authority vested in the Board of Directors by the State of New York, and by them transferred unto me, I hereby admit you to the degree of Doctor of Hebrew Letters, *honoris causa*, in this Seminary, and confer on you all the rights, privileges and immunities thereunto appertaining.

"In witness whereof, I hereby hand you this diploma."